5

10

15

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention relates to a system for remote maintenance and/or diagnosis of an automation system (2), which is provided with an electronic firewall (12). To access the automation system, for instance via the Internet from any computer connected to the Internet, it is proposed to transmit an email message (16) to the automation system via a data transmission system (18) with a first transmit/receive device (3) which is disposed at the location of a remote user (1). To this end, an instruction (8) to be executed at the location of the automation system is packaged by an instruction encoder in the e-mail message to be transmitted. At the location of the automation system, a second transmit/receive device (5) is provided to receive the e-mail message sent by the remote user (1). The second transmit/receive device has an instruction decoder (11) to automatically identify the instruction in the e-mail message and forward the instruction to the application (6) for which the instruction is intended.